

# Fearless Youths Once Spent Four Hours Exploring Cave on Edgewood Drive

## Cavern Exit Is Found On Rural Creek

### One Who Made Trip Still Surviving; Adventures Told

By George W. Summers

When one goes up Edgewood drive, which leads to the Edgewood Country club and the attractive residential section bearing the same name, he passes a protruding ledge of rock that overhangs a small cave-like opening. It is so inconspicuous that few of the thousands who pass it daily give it attention, or even notice it.

But more than 40 years ago this cave was the enchanted castle, the cavern of romance, the favorite but fearsome haunt of a group of Charleston boys. There they would gather to indulge their dreams of glorious adventure and to speculate as to what might be found within the dark recesses of the hidden realm which they pictured as an endless cavern, filled with phantoms, spooks and spectral forms.

### Cave Thrilled Many Boys

It was more imposing than it inspired more readily the boyish imagination. For in the front of it was blasted away later to make way for the old street railway, which years ago carried passengers to the amusements at Edgewood park and the Edgewood country club, before the automobile came into general use. Before that was done the ledge of rock and what was farther into the roadway and the opening beneath it looked much more like the entrance to a cavern than it does now.

"Tom Sawyer's cave," these boys called it, their minds filled with the description Mark Twain gave of the life and adventures of the characteristic American boy he called Tom Sawyer. And they were not the only boys, now grown to be men, some perhaps old men, whose lives have been thrilled by Mark Twain's tales of Tom.

It was at their gatherings in "Tom Sawyer's cave" that these boys discussed plans to penetrate the cave and ascertain its hidden secrets. Time after time they planned their exploring expedition. But for various reasons the start into the darkness of the unknown chamber was postponed just as often until some other time.

### Made Several Starts

Several times they made a start. Inside the cave they heard strange sounds, which may have been their own voices echoing. They saw big boulders, shaped by their imagination into the counterpart of bears. They saw gleaming eyes coming from far back in the cavern, which may have been reflections of their own lights thrown back by wet spots on the rocks. It was these strange sights and sounds, which meant to them only secreted wild animals which they had no desire to encounter in the darkness, that caused them to return with speed to daylight and the open spaces.

For about two years the boys lived in the expectation of soon entering and exploring Tom Sawyer's cave. And finally they did it. The daring, reckless and adventurous group who explored the cave consisted of Omar Morgan, J. W. Waugh, Leonard Waugh and Staunton Overstreet, J. W. Waugh, who called "Bill Dave," for he was named for J. W. Goshorn three times county clerk, and known always as "Bill Dave" Goshorn. Overstreet was named for Will Staunton, who also was county clerk in his career. Leonard Waugh was dead and he was the only one who could not hear the big, black bears growling all around them. Omar Morgan, a successful business man, engaged now in insurance work, is the only one of the number living now.

Should any one desire to question Mr. Morgan's word, Isaiah Mayo, Mayho or Mayhow, as he is variously called, who lives now on Margaret street, was to have been one of the party but he did not accompany them. He knows though that the others went into the cave and were gone for hours before coming back.

It was some time between 1896 and 1900 when they made the trip

## Mystery Surrounds Edgewood Drive Cave



Did you ever notice this cave opening as you drove up Edgewood hill. Well, more than 40 years ago it was a favorite recreation spot among Charleston's young population. Often the 'teen-age' boys gathered there with the thought of exploring the cave. Most of them got 'cold feet' and backed out. But for fearless youths did make the trip. It required four hours for them to

travel through the underground passage before they saw daylight again. When they emerged, they were out on Sugar creek. Later, another boy went through the cave, entering from an opening near Littlepage terrace. At the turn of the century the cave was commonly known as "Tom Sawyer" cave.

point overlooking Two-Mile creek a short distance above the old Littlepage stone mansion, to the cave on Edgewood drive, where Morgan and his companions started. His trip required more nerve and was even more thrilling than theirs, for he went through dark and tortuous passages alone.

### State College To Open on Monday

A record-breaking enrollment for the 1940-41 term at West Virginia State college, which opens Monday, was predicted Friday by Dr. John W. Davis, college president.

"Prospects are bright for a record-breaking enrollment, including the return of former students and a large registration of new students from all sections of West Virginia and the United States," college officials said.

Monday will mark the opening of the institution's 50th year of educational service.

Dr. Davis recently announced the appointment of two new teachers to teach in the departments of education and psychology. Dr. Gray Woodson, Ph. D., from Ohio State University, will teach courses in education; and Dr. Rose Butler Browne, doctor of education from Harvard, will teach in the college's department of psychology.

### Kanawha Poultrymen Going to Convention

Two Kanawha county poultrymen and one city Agricultural Agent, T. H. McGovern, are making plans to attend the second annual West Virginia Poultry association convention, which will be held Sept. 25-26 at Jackson's Mill. The others are Grover Pugh of Guthrie, and Thomas Herr of South Hills.

One of the principal convention speakers will be S. Vickers, field manager for the Ciba Poultry Improvement association.

### Paul Heavener Heads G. O. P. Speaker Bureau

Robert H. C. Kay, chairman of the Republican state committee, has appointed C. Paul Heavener of Charleston as head of the Republican campaign speakers bureau. In addition, Mr. Kay said, Paul Chambers of Logan, president of the Young Republican league, will have an active part in the state campaign.

### W. H. Smith Accepts Texas Professorship

W. Holmes Smith of Venable avenue, Kanawha City, has accepted an assistant professorship in industrial arts at the West Texas State College.

Mr. Smith has been teaching at Roosevelt Junior high school in Charleston for five years and was recently named head of the industrial arts department of the new Stonehall Jackson high school.

### Conservation Program Delegates Set Election

Delegates from the recently-elected community committees for the Kanawha county agricultural conservation program will assemble at 10 a. m. Wednesday at the courthouse to nominate and elect members of the program's county committee. It was announced Saturday by Robert E. Flint, principal clerk for the county ACP.

The meeting will be held in the office of T. H. McGovern, county agricultural agent.

### Could Nero Have Fiddled With Stomach Ulcer Pains!

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## SCOUT CHIEFS SLATE PARLEY

### Londeree to Represent Charleston Council

J. W. Londeree of South Charleston will represent the Charleston council at the annual regional meeting of Boy Scouts to be held at Middleton, O., Oct. 5. It was announced Saturday by Fred A. Bloomberg, local council president.

Frank G. Hoover, now serving his tenth year as chairman of the Region 4 Scouting committee, and remembered by many Charleston scout officials who met him here in 1935 when the annual meeting of the region convened in Charleston, will preside over the convale.

At the Middleton conference, Mr. Londeree will hold a key position in the discussions on troop organization and extension. Mr. Bloomberg said. He heads the troop organization committee of the Charleston council and was one of the prime movers in getting scouting firmly established in South Charleston.

Mr. Hoover is president of the Hoover Swooper company in Canton, C. C. Dickinson of Charleston, who became a member of the body, also will serve on the regional committee.

The regional executive, Major Charles E. Wood of Cincinnati, spent two days in Charleston last week inspecting local scout work and doing advance work for the Ohio conference. He met with the finance committee of the council Thursday noon and with the Raleigh county district committee Thursday evening at Beckley, leaving Friday for the Bluefield area.

Upon the close of the conference at Middleton, scout executives in attendance will proceed to Jackson's Mill for their annual conference, to last for five days.

## Petaín, Laval Rural Ideals Driving French Back to Soil

### Return-to-Farm Program Outlined When Two Men Met in Warsaw Back in 1935

VCHY, Sept. 14 (UP).—Marshal Henri Philippe Petaín, son of the scant soil of the northern mining basin, and Pierre Laval, a country boy who read Greek and Latin classics as he delivered meat for a village butcher in the Auvergne highlands, where the high acres give the poorest yield for the greatest effort of all France, are the guiding personalities behind France's new "back to the farm" movement through which the government hopes to make France an agricultural nation again.

Petaín and Laval agreed when they met at Marshal Josef Pilsudski's funeral in Warsaw five years ago and discussed for the first time their mutual theories for a reform of French morals and institutions that a return to a rural France was the prime necessity. Both agreed that the introduction of industry has not benefited France in any way but financially. Their ideas were so completely parallel that they found they both wanted the same thing—but it took them five years, including the disastrous and unsuccessful war, to assume power together and start to put their theories to work.

### City Trash Fees Payable Monday

Collection for garbage and trash collection service will begin next Monday for the current quarter. City Collector E. F. Dalton said Saturday. The fee may be paid either in person at the office, or through the mail, he said.

### U. S. Sues Banks For Cashing Forged Checks

Charles M. Love, Jr., assistant U. S. district attorney, brought suit in the federal district court Saturday for the government, seeking to recover \$1,092 from the Charleston National and the Kanawha Valley banks. The amounts, Mr. Love said, represents the total of forged CWA checks cashed by the banks in 1934.



## First Issue of Comet Published

FIRST ISSUE of the Morris Harvey Comet, student newspaper, was published last week under a new editorship. Miriam Thomas, senior, above left, was appointed editor for the 1940-41 school year by the Comet board of control and William Rice, also a senior, was reappointed as dean of the business staff.

Members of the editorial department are Ruth Dunbar, managing editor; Shirley Rosenbaum, news editor; Llewellyn Cole, society editor; Floyd Gervig, sports editor; and Nancy Delaney, organizations. Reporters include Betty Lou Gandy, Olive Fielding and Anna Ciccarello.

Members of the business staff are Shirley Rosenbaum, assistant to the business manager, Henry Swoope, advertising manager, and Olive Fielding, circulation manager. Walter Sutt, Jr., head of the journalism department, is faculty advisor.

## Area Boy Scout's Council Charters

The Charleston Area Council, Inc., of the Boy Scouts of America received a charter Saturday from the secretary of state.

The non-profit organization has offices located in room 215 of the Professional building, Quarrier street.

Activities of the corporation, as set out in the charter, include Kanawha, Raleigh, Fayette, Greenbrier, Pocahontas, Webster, Braxton, Nicholas, Clay and Putnam counties.

Incorporators include Fred A. Bloomberg, Arthur B. Hodges, Dewey E. Kuhns, Charles P. McCabe, C. E. Krebs and R. E. O'Connor, all of Charleston.

## City Retail Credit Group To Elect New Officers

New officers of the Charleston Retail Credit association will be elected Thursday by the board of directors at a meeting in the Ruffner hotel at 1 o'clock.

Association directors are Lee H. Henkel, O. L. Huseman, George W. Reeves, John H. Jackson, F. J. Roney, Charles Rotgin, W. R. Pool, O. Q. Messner, Dr. C. H. Jividen and Frank Whitrow.

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